Lewis and Clark County

The current recession will likely have a relatively small impact on the Helena-area economy. State and federal government workers account for almost 65 percent of the economic base in Lewis and Clark County, and government employment is traditionally less cyclic. A potential state government pay freeze in response to reduced tax revenues may reduce the growth rates in 2009, 2010, and 2011 but then increase the rate in 2012 and later as “catch-up” raises are approved. Although the Helena area never experienced the house-price bubble of other areas, the sharp acceleration in 2007 and then the slowdown in 2008 was mostly due to construction and real estate.